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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT

TOPIC Indications of the Construction of Field Fortifications
in the Saalfeld Area

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 23 July 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS 50X1-HUM

1. For several months there have been rumors that uranium would be mined in Thuringia. Since mid-June 1950 surveying, under the supervision of Soviet officers, has been in progress in the areas of Eisenach, Ilmenau, Oelze, Katzhütte, Schmiedefeld, Saalfeld and Grosskamsdorf. The surveying is done by German officials, allegedly coming from Aue.
2. The persistent rumors that the surveying was done for the construction of field fortifications rather than for prospective uranium mining were checked in the Saalfeld area. The surveying line staked-out in this area runs through the village of Beulwitz, west of the barracks, to the heights of the Sommerstein near Garndorf. Then it follows the eastern slopes of the Gartenkuppen as far as the Kienberg and continues east of the Saale River as far as Roter Berg near Schwedenschanze and Koenigszeche, and on to Grosskamsdorf.
3. Large quantities of timber were being unloaded in Saalfeld at the end of June 1950. The surveyed section in the Saalfeld area was marked by small, white stakes. Some trenches running in zigzag lines had already been dug. Farmers with fields in that area were ordered to harvest them prematurely and use the crop for feeding purposes. Potato fields and meadows were trampled down.
4. Several local residents said that the piles of timber and the excavations at various places seemed to indicate the construction of bunkers, while the staked-out lines looked like a system of trenches. The lines staked-out in Beulwitz and Garndorf near Saalfeld went through these villages and sometimes even through the houses.

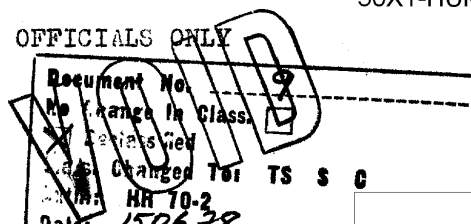
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5. It was learned that 700 laborers were accommodated in Katzhuetten and it was rumored that 7,000 workers would be employed in the Katzhuetten-Saalfeld area. Several apartments in Garndorf were requisitioned. In late June 1950 the housing office of Saalfeld county issued questionnaires in which the living space had to be specified in squaremeters and the persons living there had to be registered. *

*  Comment. The report is the first of its kind. Since preparations for uranium prospecting and preliminaries for the construction of field fortifications show a certain resemblance, the entire issue requires clarification. The construction of a system of field fortifications in the area of the Thuringian Forest may not, however, be improbable as a long-range measure.

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